

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

December 2011 – Week 1

Air Date: November 27 – December 3 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE ARRIVAL

DECEMBER 1854 AND THE OLD WORLD ARRIVES ON TEXAS SHORES.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

DECEMBER 3, 1854. GALVESTON. AFTER A GRUELING NINE WEEK SEA VOYAGE, A SMALL BAND OF POLISH SETTLERS STEP ASHORE IN HOPES OF A NEW START.

LED BY A FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY ALREADY LIVING IN TEXAS, NAMED FATHER LEOPOLD, THE 100 OR SO FAMILIES SPEAK LITTLE ENGLISH, AND HAVE NO MONEY FOR HORSES. SO, THEY RENT CARTS, AND – WALK – WESTWARD FOR NEARLY THREE WEEKS.

ARRIVING NEAR CHRISTMAS EVE, THEY NAME THEIR SETTLEMENT PANNA MARIA, OR VIRGIN MARY.

DESPITE HARDSHIPS, THE COLONY SURVIVES AND SOON MORE POLISH IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE. IT IS THE FIRST AND OLDEST POLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE OLD WORLD CAME ASHORE IN TEXAS 157 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Jan L. Perkowski and Jan Maria Wozniak, "POLES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/plp01>), accessed October 27, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Panna Maria city website, accessed October 27, 2011
<http://www.pannamariatexas.com/OurPolishSettlement.htm>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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